

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDOE FOR BILLY HILL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: TYUMEN PRODUCES ITS FIRST BILLION TONS OF OIL

REF: MOSCOW 5653

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1. CENTRAL PRESS APRIL 13 FRONTPAGES NEWS THAT ONE BILLION
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TONS OF OIL HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY TYUMEN AND TOMSK SINCE
PRODUCTION BEGAN IN 1964. AMONG THE VERBIAGE SURROUNDING
THE EVENT, WHICH INCLUDED THE NORMAL CONGRATULATORY
LETTER FROM BREZHNEV, WERE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF ECONOMIC
INTEREST:

- WESTERN SIBERIA IS TO PROVIDE NOT LESS THAN 254 MILLION

TONS OF OIL THIS YEAR, OF WHICH ALMOST 250 MILLION TONS IS TO COME FROM TYUMEN.

- GLAVTYUMENNEFTEGAZ HAS DECIDED IT WILL PRODUCE 2 MILLION MORE TONS OF CRUDE PETROLEUM (SYR'YA) THIS YEAR THAN CALLED FOR IN THE PLAN.

- SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IT HAS DRILLED A MILLION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

METERS, OF WHICH 87 THOUSAND METERS WAS ABOVE PLAN (ABOUT 10 PERCENT).

- IT HAS ALREADY PROVIDED ALMOST 200 THOUSAND TONS OF "BLACK GOLD" (OIL) ABOVE PLAN.

- THE DECEMBER 1977 CC PLENUM SET OUT TASKS FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF THE COMPLEX PROGRAM FOR OPENING UP RESOURCES AND DEVELOPING THE INDUSTRIAL POWER OF WESTERN SIBERIA.

- ABOUT 25 BILLION RUBLES OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT WILL BE MADE IN TYUMEN OBLAST' DURING THE TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN.

- DURING HIS RECENT VISIT BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF OIL AND GAS AND TO UTILIZE MORE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY EXISTING RESOURCES.

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2. COMMENT: THE MEDIA COVERAGE IS, OF COURSE, ALL UP BEAT, IGNORING PROBLEMS THAT COULD PLAGUE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT LIVING CONDITIONS REGISTERED WITH BREZHNEV ON HIS RECENT TRIP AND STATE PRICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON MARCH 1 THAT OIL PRODUCTION COSTS HAD DOUBLED IN RECENT YEARS AND WOULD BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE IN THE FUTURE. ONE WONDERS WHY THIS ONE BILLION TON MILESTONE WAS NOT PUBLICIZED IN CONNECTION WITH EITHER THE BREZHNEV VISIT OR THE KOSYGIN/BAYBAKOV TRIP.

3. THE KOSYGIN/BAYBAKOV TRIP TO TYUMEN (REF A) REMAINS SOMETHING OF A PUZZLE. WHILE IT WAS GOING ON GOSPLAN OFFICIALS, IN A MEETING WITH FRG EMBASSY ECONOFFS, SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY THE VISIT'S SIGNIFICANCE. THEY WOULD PUT FORWARD NO PARTICULAR REASON FOR THE VISIT, ASSERTING THAT BAYBAKOV MAKES SUCH A TRIP EVERY YEAR AND THAT KOSYGIN HAD ALSO MADE ONE TWO YEARS AGO.

4. THE RECORDS WE HAVE OF SUCH TRIPS IN THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS SHOW ONLY THAT KOSYGIN VISITED KOMI AND TYUMEN OIL AND GAS INSTALLATIONS IN EARLY MARCH 1975 AND THAT BAYBAKOV

VISITED BAKU AND THE THEN NEW OIL FIELD AT MURADKHANLY IN
LATE MARCH 1977. TOON

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